

Jointly marketed dual credit and newly developed cohort project successfully launched for students transitioning from Shelby Co. ATC to JCTC



Photo (l to r): Mary A. Stratton, Kentucky Tech area supervisor; Pamela Larkin, professor and business studies department chair, Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC)-Shelby Campus; and Shelby Co. Area Technology Center principal Susan Wiley.

Seamless transition of course credit from a Kentucky Tech area technology center to a Kentucky Community and Technical College (KCTCS) has been a continuing goal for many in career and technical education programs for years. In fact, the discussion has taken place since the historic passing of the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997 (HB 1) signed into law by former Governor Paul E. Patton.

With systemic agreements between the Office of Career

and Technical Education and KCTCS signed on a yearly basis, one would expect everything to be in place. But is it? And, has it really worked? The truth is - success can only be realized when responsible parties act locally. Shelby County is a location where the parties between both systems have not only acted responsibly, they have also created a footprint for others to follow.

Hard work and determination does pay off when partners work together for a common purpose. A unified effort to jointly develop and market a dual credit and cohort project was successfully launched on February 12, 2009. The local plan was developed by JCTC-Shelby Campus and Shelby County ATC administrators, faculty, and staff. It has brought about a renewed optimism that the system really does work when there is a local commitment to make it happen.

The event drew approximately 60 people and created an opportunity for students and their parents (or grandparents) to better understand the economic benefits of entering a community or technical college armed with dual credit earned at an area technology center. The bottom line to those students and their families – a savings of tuition and time spent in school – music to anyone's ears.



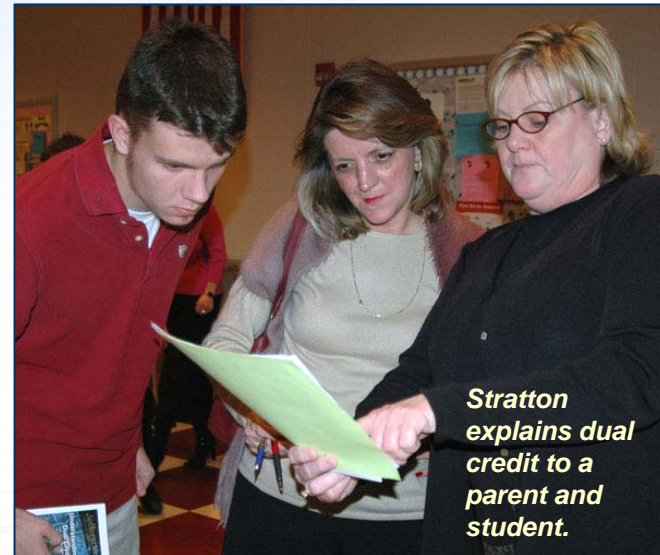
Students go over information presented during the recruiting event.

“One of the great features of technical education is that students can gain marketable skills through short-term education programs,” said Dr. John Wieland, JCTC-Shelby Campus director. “Students who begin coursework at the ATC and then continue on with KCTCS have a tremendous advantage. They can often complete certificates in technical programs in a relatively short period of time. But if they want to earn additional credentials, such as a diploma or associate's degree, they can apply credits earned within the certificates to the higher level credential. Education reform in Kentucky has emphasized the importance of seamlessness in moving from one level of education to another, and this is one way that technical programs typify that seamlessness.”

The program included individuals from both institutions, as well as from the JCTC Downtown and Southwest Campuses. After a welcome from Pamela Larkin, JCTC-Shelby Campus professor and division chair, Kentucky Tech area supervisor Mary Stratton had this to say about how the partnership evolved:

Stratton:

“From our initial discussion with JCTC president Dr. Tony Newberry, the commitment to effectively coordinate this project has been a real partnership. Dr. John Wieland, the Shelby Campus director, has also been supportive - as well as his staff in working through the details for a successful outcome. We feel very confident that students will benefit as a result of our united efforts.



Stratton explains dual credit to a parent and student.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for students to get the extra help they need to be successful at the postsecondary level. It is also a great marketing tool to educate the public regarding the advantages of attending an ATC.

“Another positive outcome is the close proximity of the high school, area technology center and JCTC - Shelby Campus. The education triangle is literally less than one mile. Creating this seamless opportunity will allow our citizens to take advantage of postsecondary education without having to leave Shelby County.”



Professor Larkin

Professor Larkin:

“Our recruitment event with the Shelby County Area Technology Center is one of the most exciting activities we have been involved in since the campus opened in 2002. We have worked hard to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with the area technology center and it’s working because Principal Susan Wiley has been willing to work with us.

“Jointly, our goals have been to foster a sense of community support for both institutions, develop and promote the value of a seamless transition from the secondary level into postsecondary education, provide students with dual credit for their ATC course(s) and with the necessary services to enroll in programs offered at our campus.

“Ms. Wiley worked with her boss, Mary Stratton, and all of us to ensure a successful outcome. As a result, the recruiting event provided us with the opportunity to showcase our campus, demonstrate the value of dual credit in terms of time and money, and introduce the idea of a cohort group. Because of the personnel we had on site, students and their parents now have a better understanding of how their dual credits lead to certificates, diplomas, and ultimately associate degrees. This is the first of what I hope will become annual collaboration with the ATC.”

To help parents understand the dual credit process, Shelby Co. ATC principal Susan Wiley used her own daughter's courses as a real life example. Candice has taken three dual credit classes at the ATC, and as a senior this year, takes three classes on the Shelby Campus of JCTC. Upon graduation, Candice will have 15 credits that will transfer directly to the University of Louisville. Based on her major, one additional course is being considered as an elective. If accepted, Candice will enter U of L with a total of 18 credits.

Susan Wiley:

"As an educator, I believe we want to provide opportunities for our students to achieve their goals. While many understand the value of a postsecondary education, we need to make sure they all understand how easy it can be to transition from high school directly to a postsecondary institution located right out our back door.

"I am so pleased to be working with JCTC-Shelby Campus to give one of these opportunities to our students and families not only in Shelby Co., but also in the counties that our school serves.

"It is important for us to keep educating our students, as well as their parents and members of our communities, about the resources available to them through our ATC and the JCTC-Shelby Campus. Dual credit earned at our school is a great deal. – now, more than ever because of these hard economic times."



Photo (l to r): Betsy Langness, JCTC-Shelby Campus admission's counselor and Wiley go over a student transcript.

Valerie Ricchio, Shelby Co. ATC information technology (IT) instructor also addressed the audience by talking about local solutions for IT students.

Ricchio:

“My reasoning for getting into this whole process was simple. I just wanted to expand educational opportunities for my IT students.

“When I realized that my students were going into expensive postsecondary private colleges because they were in closer proximity than the public colleges in Louisville, I knew something must be done – and we needed to start right here.

“I started working with KCTCS to get my students dual credit. Because of the articulation agreement between institutions and my program and personal certifications, we were successful. There was just one problem – no programming courses were being offered at the Shelby Campus. To me, this whole process is exciting because JCTC will reintroduce an IT program to its campus and experiment with cohort groups transitioning from high school to college. It means programming in our local community, receiving dual credit, paying less tuition and not having to travel. To us, that’s a grand slam.”

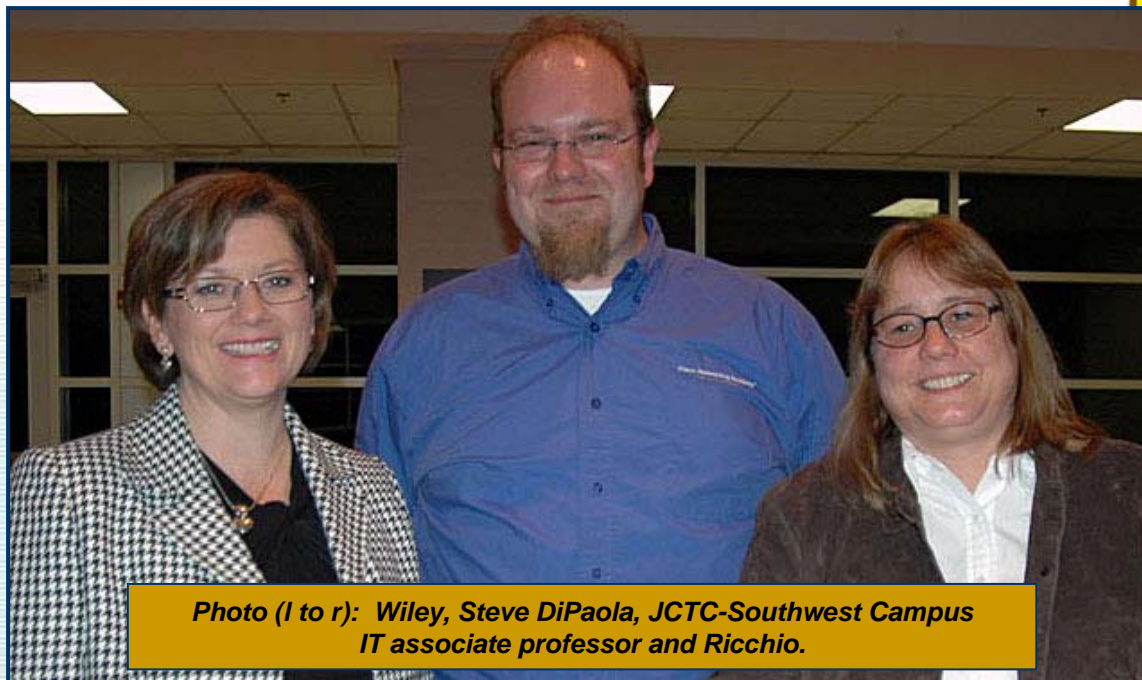


Photo (l to r): Wiley, Steve DiPaola, JCTC-Southwest Campus IT associate professor and Ricchio.



Photo (l to r): Julie Raulerson, career specialist with Connecting Educational Resources and Workforce (CREW) talks with Lisa Mahoney about the benefits of the program.

Lisa's perspective: "Attending this meeting was beneficial - even though it is too late for my two older children to take advantage of the dual credit agreement. But, my younger son will have an opportunity to profit from what I have learned. Every high school in the state should make it mandatory to explain to parents that taking classes at an area technology center can transfer to college. It could be done when high school students register for classes."

At right (center): Kitty Zachery, JCTC director of dual credit programs, talks about how a course qualifies as a dual credit course, how and when credit is earned, and the services offered to students who participate in dual credit courses.



(At left): Lisa Schrenger, JCTC assistant director of financial aid hands out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. She provided an overview of how to apply for both grants and loans.

John Marks
Executive Director
Office of Career and Technical Education
Department for Workforce Investment
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

“This is a great example of what can happen when education partners focus on student success. Yes, we all work hard at this level to keep our statewide articulation and dual credit agreements up to date and viable. But, without local understanding, commitment and marketing, these agreements could not grow to their fullest potential.

“The fact is this – every student that we serve throughout the Kentucky Tech system of schools can and should use this tremendous benefit. In my opinion, the key is connecting from the ATC teacher level to the KCTCS professor level. Our job as administrators is to help make these connections beneficial for all partners.

“I want to personally congratulate Mary Stratton, Dr. Tony Newberry, and all of the individuals for their dedication in delivering this program to Shelby County, Henry County, Spencer County, and Eminence Independent students. The whole plan looks like a wonderful model of local cooperation – one that we hope others across the state will emulate.”



**Jefferson Community and Technical College – Shelby County Campus
Recruitment Night – February 12, 2009
Program Agenda**

Welcome: Pamela Larkin, JCTC-Shelby Campus Division Chair

Shelby County ATC Partnership with JCTC – Mary Stratton, Kentucky Tech Area Supervisor for the North Central Region

Dual Credit Example: Susan Wiley, Shelby County ATC Principal and Valerie Ricchio, Shelby Co. ATC Information Technology Instructor

Admission Process: Betsy Langness, JCTC-Shelby Campus Counselor

Financial Aid: Lisa Schrenger, JCTC Assistant Director of Financial Aid

Connecting Education Resources and Workforce (CREW): Julie Raulerson, Career Specialist

University of Louisville Transfer Program (ULtra): Kathleen Mandlehr, Director

Program Breakout: Lobby

[Click here to see the promotional flyer designed to inform students and parents about the February 12, 2009 meeting](#)



*Good News Flash #269 – February 20, 2009
By: Fran Dundon
Office of Career and Technical Education
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet*

